Commerce Notification No. 23 (RE-96) dated 10.2.1997, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

**Growth of trade between India and Latin America**

909. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of protocol signed by India recently to set up trade with Latin American countries;

(b) the major constraints affecting growth of trade between India and Latin American Countries;

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to step up trade with Latin American countries; and

(d) the details of other liberalised opportunities to be given to private sector for economic cooperation to boost imports in Latin America?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) Recently, a Trade Agreement between India and Trinidad and Tobago was signed on 24th January, 1997. This is a general Trade Agreement and would serve to promote business relations between the two countries. The major constraint affecting growth of trade between India and Latin American countries is the great geographical distance between the two sides, because of which shipping time is longer and more expensive. However, this situation is slowly changing. Recently, the United Arab Emirates/Clipper Shipping Joint Venture Company have started direct shipping service between Mumbai and Sao Paulo, (Brazil). There is also greater awareness among the business communities of both the sides of the potential that exists for promoting and increasing trade. This has been possible because of an exchange of delegations and holding of trade fairs and exhibitions. In order to provide liberal opportunities to the private sector for economic cooperation to boost trade with Latin American and Caribbean region, 43 countries of this region have been given the benefit of claiming double weigthage on NFE or FOB basis earned by the export of products to these countries for recognition as Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House.

**Decentralisation of Industrial Planning**

910. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States representatives have emphasised the need for decentralisation of industrial planning aimed at delegating more powers to the States Governments in setting up new projects and expanding one specially in North Eastern States, at the seminar organised by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in association with Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta in December, 1996; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to solve the problems raised by various representatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) It has been ascertained that the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the affiliated local Chambers of Commerce organised a seminar on "Economic Resurgence of the Eastern Region" on 28th December, 1996 at Calcutta. The meeting was addressed by the Ministers of Industry of the Governments of West Bengal, Assam and Orissa. The proceedings of this seminar have not yet been conveyed to the Central Government.

**Training for chilly exporters of Andhra Pradesh**

911. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to train chilly exporters of Andhra Pradesh on how to preserve chilly for export and prevent over usage of pesticides and fungicides;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and